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Celebrity Buzz

Kidman won't move home

pg 30

Sports pg 19

Colbert skates onto mag front

Nov. home sales up 252% even as prices climb

REALTY Home sales in Vancouver increased by a whopping 252 per cent in November 2009 compared to the same month last year — the most of any major Canadian city.

The rise in the number of homes sold was seen despite a 22 per cent price hike over the same time, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association.

METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Entertainment pg 28

Up In The Air leads Globes

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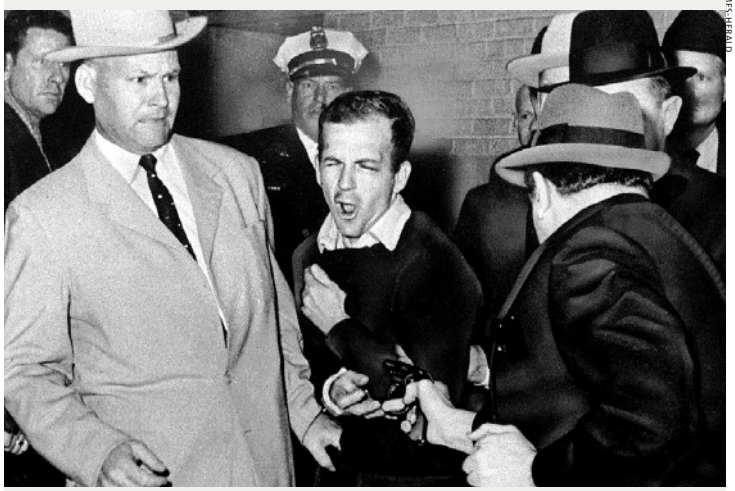
Liberals What were they thinking?



SUPPLIED BY THE CANADIAN PRESS — BOTTOM PHOTO BY ROB JACKSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/DALLAS TIMES HERALD

The federal Liberal party has apologized for posting a doctored image, top, on its website that depicts Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the victim of a famous assassination. The photo — in which Harper's face was Photoshopped onto the famous picture, bottom, of Jack Ruby gunning down Lee Harvey Oswald — was removed immediately after it began drawing public notice. Story, page 7

Shooting by cops justified: Investigation

Dead man's family launching suit

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Two Vancouver police officers who shot and killed an armed schizophrenic homeless man were justified in their use of deadly force, Abbotsford police concluded yesterday.

Michael Vann Hubbard, 58, was shot once as he approached two officers on Granville Street during a busy Friday night in Vancouver's Downtown core.

He was waving an extended utility knife, yelling and swearing at the officers and telling them to shoot him.

Abbotsford police conducted the investigation because it involved Vancouver police officers.

More than 80 non-police witnesses saw the incident that was also captured on surveillance video.

Almost all witnesses offered versions of the incident that were consistent with Vancouver police.

Nina Purewal, a lawyer for Vann Hubbard's family, read a short statement from his family. It stated that police should be held accountable for their actions.

The Pivot Legal Society said Vann Hubbard was no threat and that police used too much force.

They also alleged that the opinions of Chief Const. Jim Chu in an internal memo had tainted the Abbotsford police investigation. The memo concerned surveillance video of the incident and was leaked to a Vancouver newspaper.

Vann Hubbard's family is launching a civil suit and has filed a complaint regarding the leaked memo.

Chu expressed his regrets to Vann Hubbard's family but restated that his officer acted within the law and in defence of her own life and the safety of the public.

Abbotsford police also recommended charges of public mischief against Adam Smolcic, a Vancouver man who claimed to have recorded the incident on his cellphone only to have a police officer seize the phone and allegedly delete the footage.

Chu said — if Smolcic is found guilty of trying to dupe the public and discredit Vancouver police — he did not act alone.

He blasted the watchdog organizations who supported Smolcic and news organizations for repeating Smolcic's allegations without skepticism or critical analysis.

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Local

Ugly sweater party this Friday

The eighth annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party is taking place at the Commodore Ballroom on Friday. Doors to the festive tongue-in-cheek soiree open at 8 p.m.

METRO VANCOUVER

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
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Strict rules govern Olympic drivers

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

CHAUFFEURS Ottawa will be spending half a million dollars to drive international big shots around Vancouver during the Olympics.

In a document from Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the federal government is looking to hire drivers to fill chauffeur positions during the Games, but the jobs come with firm provisions. Smoking, talking on your cellphone and eavesdropping on the clients are prohibited.

Also, using any of the cash made from the job to fund terrorist organizations or activities is forbidden.

The stringent policies are needed because the job will make a significant impression on those visiting Canada for the Games, according to the document.

Kyle Seo, manager of Vancouver Limousine Service, said his company will be driving some VIPs during the Olympics but he hasn't been given any rules. He did say his company will provide services to committees from Russia and Korea.

The deadline to apply is today by 11 a.m. through vancouver2010.com.

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Lululemon cashing in?

VANOC scolds company over 'Cool Sporting Event' line

Lululemon Athletica's newest line of clothing is raising eyebrows at VANOC because its name treads rather close to violating the 2010 brand's copyright laws.

The Vancouver-based yoga apparel company launched its "Cool Sporting Event That Takes Place in British Columbia Between 2009 & 2011 Edition" this week.

It features, among other things, Canadian sweaters with gold zippers and American ones with silver zippers.

VANOC doesn't appear sold on it.

"We expected better sportsmanship from a local Canadian company than to produce a clothing line that attempts to profit from the Games but doesn't support the Games or the success of the Canadian Olympic team," said Bill Cooper, VANOC's director of commercial rights management.

"Funds generated from the sale of officially licensed merchandise — including the hugely popular red mittens — go directly toward the success of the Canadian Olympic team and the successful staging of the Games."

VANOC says it will investigate whether the line breaks any rules, but Lululemon maintains it's falling within all the trademark regulations.

Lululemon isn't the only major apparel company making headlines because of copyright controversy this week.

The North Face is suing a small St. Louis-based company called The South Butt, saying the parody company is ripping off The North Face from its merchandise right down to its logo and motto.

The South Butt, which goes by the tagline "Never Stop Relaxing" — in contrast to the North Face's "Never Stop Exploring" — was started by college freshman Jimmy Winkelmann.

METRO VANCOUVER

YVR SUV crashes into terminal

PHOTO COURTESY GEORGE GIANNAKOS

An SUV is seen after a valet crashed it through a door and into the U.S. check-in area of the international terminal at Vancouver's airport yesterday. No one was injured.

Canada has failed war resister: MP

DTES Canada has failed a U.S. war resister who has spent the last three months claiming sanctuary inside the First United Church, a former federal Liberal leadership candidate said yesterday.

Gerard Kennedy, MP for Parkdale-Highpark (Ontario), met with Rodney Watson, a U.S. army deserter who has lived inside the Downtown Eastside church to avoid deportation since mid-September.

Kennedy, who came fourth in the 2006 Liberal leadership race, has introduced a private member's bill to amend the Immigration Act. It would allow U.S. resisters of the Iraq War to stay in Canada on compassionate grounds.

"It's about a Canadian sensibility," Kennedy said. "We're friends with the Americans, but we can't really be friends if we can't disagree with them."

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. war resister Rodney Watson, left, listens to Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy at First United Church in Vancouver yesterday.

Kennedy, whose bill comes before Parliament in February or March, said the tradition of allowing conscientious objectors to stay in Canada dates back to the 1960s.

Watson, whose Canadian son celebrated his first birthday yesterday, came to Canada in 2006 after he was "stop-lossed" — his military contract was extended and he would have been returned to a war zone in Iraq or Afghanistan.

There are believed to be a couple hundred war resisters in Canada, said Sarah Bjorknas with the War Resisters Support Campaign. Three have been deported.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Musician free to perform song despite lack of licence

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

COMPOSITION A Vancouver musician is free to perform her Olympics-inspired song even after walking away from a licensing deal with VANOC.

The song in question, titled Sea to Skyway, was composed by Nicole Scoffield.

"The Olympics put the final touches on this song," said Scoffield. "So I decided to send it off to (Premier) Gordon Campbell and (Mayor) Gregor Robertson. I thought it would get the song out there."

Scoffield said that after sending out the song, she was instructed by Campbell's office to pass it on to VANOC CEO John Furlong.

She was then sent a letter from VANOC asking her to sign away the rights to the song as part of an Unsolicited Proposals Agreement (UPA). According to Scoffield, VANOC said she would have to sign the agreement before they would listen to it.

"I put too much of my soul into it," she said. "I just couldn't sign."

Since Scoffield's decision, VANOC appears to have changed course. An organization spokesperson said in an email that Scoffield is no longer being asked to sign the UPA "as all their needs for the Games have been met."

SEAN KOLENKO/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Concert performers for medal presentations announced

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

MUSIC Olympic organizers have finally unveiled the concert lineup for the nightly medal presentations at the host mountain resort for the 2010 Winter Games.

Performers include Feist, K'Naan, Our Lady Peace, Usher, the Fray and Estelle.

But tickets for the musical events in Whistler may be as hard to come by as those for the sporting events.

They're being reserved for people who live north of Squamish because of the small size of the venue and restrictions on travel in the area.

Transportation challenges had already forced organizers to curtail the sales of sport-event tickets to area residents.

Tickets for the Whistler medal ceremonies are not for sale but will be given away for free through an online contest run by Tourism Whistler that begins Jan. 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feist Raine Maida

News in brief

H1N1 Two more people in the Vancouver Coastal Health region have died from H1N1 in the past week. Both patients had pre-existing medical conditions. In B.C., 23 new serious cases were reported during that time – most of them on Vancouver Island.

SPONSOR More than 300 athletes sponsored by Oakley will be able to call Grouse Mountain home during the Olympics. The American Sunglasses maker announced yesterday it's making the North Vancouver resort its home base.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Newscaster Parsons leaving Global
Veteran TV newsman Tony Parsons will be anchoring his last newscast for Global TV at 6 p.m. tonight. Parsons, 70, said he isn't retiring but is moving on to other endeavours. METRO VANCOUVER

Warm weather calms snowstorm

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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It wasn't quite the winter wallop we were expecting — not in Vancouver, at least — as the predicted 10 to 20 centimetres of snow fell instead as rain and made for an easier, albeit wetter commute yesterday.

Environment Canada issued a snow and freezing rain warning on Monday, sending Vancouverites scrambling to hardware stores for shovels and salt, but nothing much came of the flurries.

Gary Dickinson, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said it's not easy to predict snowfall patterns in Vancouver.

"The smallest subtleties can throw off a forecast," he said. "(If the) temperature rises just half a degree, that can change (snow to rain)."

He said the weather changed from an Arctic air mass to a moist Pacific mass, raising the temperature by a few degrees and turning what should have been snow into rain.

Dickinson added while people seemed upset at receiving an inaccurate weather report, it could have been worse — the report could have been true.

The roads weren't as clear in the Fraser Valley, however, where five to 10 centimetres of the white stuff actually fell and stayed on the ground in Surrey, Delta, Langley and Abbotsford.

As for the rest of the week, expect the usual — rain.

Get by blocked roads on two wheels in 2010

TRANSPORT With all the Olympic road closures in February, it may be easier to get around on two wheels instead of four.

That's the message the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition (VACC) took to a workshop at Thompson Community Centre in Richmond last night, to offer tips on commuting via pedal power in the winter and how to navigate streets during the Olympics.

Chris Keam, communications co-ordinator for VACC, said he expects more cyclists than usual on the streets during the Olympics because of roadblocks and parking restrictions, making driving a pain. VACC is hoping to educate cyclists on how to ride in the rain, be safe in traffic and visible at night.

2010
- VACC is hosting a third Getting Around The Games workshop Saturday at Steed Cycles in North Vancouver at 2 p.m.

"Safety is the key factor," he said. "You need to be visible and predictable. (Wear) lights, safety vests and reflecting stripes ... and signal when you're turning and be in the right position on the road."

Keam said to stay dry, all you need is a poncho, galoshes and rain pants over your clothes.

For information on bike routes during the Games visit olympichostcity.vancouver.ca/gettingaround/biking.

KRISTIN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

3 charged over kidnapping plot

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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CRIME Three Metro Vancouver men have been arrested and charged with conspiracy to kidnap a man and extort his family for his brother's unpaid gambling debts.

RCMP said they learned in April 2008 of the plot to kidnap the would-be victim for ransom, but wouldn't say how they gleaned the information.

"Investigators were successful in identifying the potential victim and learned that the actual debt had been incurred by his brother," said Sgt. Shinder Kirk with the Gang Task Force.

"Investigative strategies were developed and put into action, which resulted in preventing the actual kidnapping from taking place."

Dean Andrew Monkman, 39, Nenad Aleksic, 34, and Lucas Tinio Simbulan, 35, have each been charged with conspiracy to kidnap and conspiracy to commit extortion.

Alleged crime ties
- One of the three men accused has significant ties to organized crime, Mounties said.

Art Mocking the window washers

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Window washers are framed by statues from Chinese artist Yue Minjun as they clean the windows on an apartment building at Denman and Davie streets yesterday.

News in brief

VIOLENCE The deaths of five family members in a Victoria-area murder suicide have prompted the Victoria Police Department to form a domestic violence unit. An inquest into the September 2007 deaths heard that two officers will work with counsellors and legal officials. THE CANADIAN PRESS

APPROVAL B.C. Ferries scored its highest-ever marks on its customer satisfaction survey in August, at 92 per cent. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Mom takes on Rogers policy

Unhappy with switch in text fees

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

A Coquitlam mother of three text-happy teenagers is angry with her cellphone provider for altering their contract, but Rogers Wireless said the customer was given advance warning that some terms of their agreement would change.

Rosanna von Sacken purchased three cellphones from Rogers in September 2008. She signed a three-year student My 10 plan allowing her kids unlimited calls and texts to and from 10 numbers of their choice. The contract stated all text messages received would be free.

But in July 2009 Rogers started charging 15 cents for text messages received that were not covered by an air-time package. One of the children at that time was exchanging about 200 text messages a day.

"It's wrong for Rogers to be able to change anything they want," she said. "I want them to honour our original deal. I have no control over who texts my children."

A spokesperson for Rogers said they notified customers in June 2009 that their contracts would be changing.

Von Sacken admits she missed the notification on her June 2009 bill, saying "no one reads all the fine print."

Edward Bukszar, a Simon Fraser University business professor, said the move is legal but risky for Rogers.

"You always risk alienating customers when you change things like this regardless of the strategy they put behind it," Bukszar said. "Customers feel distanced from a company they're expected to be loyal to."

Local potato vodka distillery hopes to fuel holiday revelry

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

B.C.'s only potato vodka distillery is hoping people will choose its products as stocking stuffers this Christmas.

Despite a warm welcome from British Columbian media and consumers when organic spud vodka was first introduced in August, master distiller Tyler Schramm said business slowed down in October and November, but he expects that to change.

"Now it's Christmas-time, and I think sales will definitely pick up again," said Schramm.

Aaron Bourcier, spirits selector at the Brewery Creek Liquor Store in Vancouver, said the vodka is a bestseller at his store.

"In its price range it has essentially stopped sales of other products like Grey Goose," said Bourcier.

No small potatoes

- The Pemberton-based distillery produces around 1,300 bottles of Schramm Vodka every month.

News in brief

SOLAR POWER Vancouver approved a pilot program yesterday to cover up to half the costs of installing solar hot water systems in new houses. The Solar Homes Strategy has the city, Terasen Gas, Solar B.C. and Offsetters paying about $3,500 (or 50 per cent of the cost of installation) for the system. Solar hot water can provide up to 60 per cent of the energy required for heating water. The incentive, which begins in January, is available for 15 months or to the first 50 houses on a first-come, first-served basis. The total cost of the program to the city is $50,000.

DRUNK DRIVING Police in Coquitlam have investigated 400 cases of drunk driving this year, with the busiest season still ahead of them. This is up from the 265 cases investigated in 2008. Last weekend, Coquitlam RCMP officers took 24 drunk drivers off the road.

MISCHIEF RCMP in Hope say they've arrested a 27-year-old prolific offender after the man got drunk and went through town causing "mischief and disturbance." He allegedly jumped in a van and threatened the people inside, then got out and punched the door of a theatre, breaking the glass.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Warning about Roman shades and roll-up blinds issued

Health Canada is reminding people to be careful about using Roman shades and roll-up blinds due to the possible strangulation hazard they pose to children. The agency's warning today follows the recall of more than 50 million shades and blinds in the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

No charges laid against sports doc

The RCMP says no charges have been laid against Dr. Anthony Galea, left, a Canadian sports medicine doctor who has treated Donovan Bailey, NFL players and other athletic stars. RCMP spokesman Sgt. Marc LaPorte says police arrested Galea after a search warrant was executed on the Institute of Sports Medicine Health and Wellness Centre on Brown's Line near Toronto on Oct. 15. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Climate **Mayor in Denmark**

JENS DIGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL PHOTO

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson leaves Town Hall Square on a bicycle in Copenhagen yesterday. The largest and most important UN climate change conference is underway in Copenhagen, aiming to create an agreement to protect the world from the potentially calamitous effects of global warming.

Grits sorry for doctored pic

Harper depicted as Oswald in famous assassination photo

The federal Liberal party has apologized for posting a doctored photo on its website that depicts Prime Minister Stephen Harper being assassinated.

The photo — in which Harper's face was Photoshopped onto the famous picture of Lee Harvey Oswald being gunned down by Jack Ruby — was removed immediately after it began drawing public notice.

"It had no business being there," acknowledged Liberal party spokesman Daniel Lauzon.

Another fake photo, depicting Harper with his arm buried to the elbow in the wrong end of a cow, was also removed.

Lauzon said the cow picture was meant to poke fun at the carbon emissions produced by bovine flatulence but was removed "due to the possibility of misinterpretation."

> **"We won't dignify this with a response."**
> Dimitri Soudas, Harper spokesman

The photos had been part of a contest, in which the party invited people to make up humorous pictures portraying Harper's reluctance to participate in the Copenhagen climate-change summit.

The photos are "user-generated" and don't necessarily reflect the views of the party, said Lauzon — still, they are supposed to be screened by the party before they're posted.

"We do review them but that one admittedly slipped through the cracks," Lauzon said of the doctored photo of Oswald, who was shot by Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963, two days after Oswald was arrested for the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy.

"We removed it immediately and we apologize to anyone who was offended."

The party posted an apology on its website as well.

Although Conservatives drew the offending photos to reporters' attention, the Prime Minister's Office declined comment.

"We won't dignify this with a response," said Harper spokesman Dimitri Soudas.

Soudas said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff "should comment, not us, as the incident reflects on Mr. Ignatieff's judgment."

Liberals said Ignatieff had nothing to do with the photo contest or the website.

The Tories have been forced to apologize themselves in the past for inappropriate images on their party website.

During last year's election campaign, the Conservatives had to remove an image of a puffin pooping on the shoulder of then-Liberal leader Stephane Dion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No clear answers in pedophile inquiry

ONTARIO Rumours that swirled for years that children were abused at the hands of a pedophile ring in eastern Ontario were neither put to rest nor given credence yesterday by a $53-million public inquiry report four years in the making.

The Cornwall inquiry's official mandate was to examine institutional responses to historical claims of sexual abuse, and the sensational allegation that fuelled it went unresolved in the more than 1600-page report.

"Throughout this inquiry I have heard evidence that suggested that there were cases of joint abuse, passing of alleged victims, and possibly passive knowledge of abuse," Commissioner G. Normand Glaude wrote.

> **"I am not going to make a pronouncement on whether a (pedophile) ring existed or not."**
> Commissioner, G. Norman Glaude

"I want to be very clear that I am not going to make a pronouncement on whether a ring existed or not."

The Ontario Provincial Police spent four years investigating allegations of sexual abuse. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cogeco forced to remove misleading claims in ads

QUEBEC The federal Competition Bureau said yesterday that cable provider Cogeco has removed misleading advertising claims about the speed of its Internet services in two Quebec cities.

The federal agency didn't provide details on when the ads ran or say if a consumer made a complaint, citing its confidentiality policy.

"I can say, though, that when we did approach them that they did immediately remove the misleading representations," said bureau spokesman Greg Scott.

In a similar claim, a court in British Columbia earlier ruled that Rogers Communications Inc. could not continue to claim it had "Canada's Most Reliable" wireless network without qualification. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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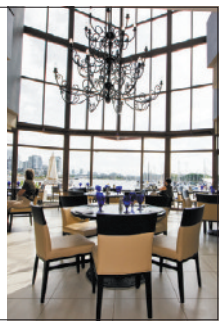

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sp: metro Photo provided by Cypress Mountain

Teen accused of murder released

A Whitehorse teenager accused of killing a man will be going back to school in January, after spending the last five months in jail. The 16-year-old girl cannot be identified because she is a minor. She turned herself in to the RCMP shortly after a 56-year-old man was found with multiple stab wounds last August. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **Trying to save a historic landmark**

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Upset residents gather outside the historic McLean House in Toronto to protest its demolition. An upset Dyan Kirshenbaum, of the Casa Loma Heritage Society, pleads her case with Police Sgt. Mandy Morris. The history of McLean House dates back to 1928.

Colvin set to rebut Tories' allegations

Whistleblower releasing letter to committee

Diplomat and whistleblower Richard Colvin will break his silence today in a 20-page rebuttal of the federal government's claims it received no "credible allegations" of torture of prisoners handed over to Afghan authorities until late 2007.

Colvin's letter, to be submitted to the committee probing the controversy, is certain to increase the pressure on the Conservative government to comply with a Parliamentary vote ordering it to produce uncensored documents related to the detainee issue.

It comes after seven Conservative MPs boycotted and forced the cancellation of a special sitting of the committee yesterday.

A source said Colvin, who was a senior official in the Canadian Embassy in Afghanistan in 2006-07, feels it is his "duty to correct the record and provide a complete and detailed record before the committee."

Richard Colvin

Colvin will address the claims both in testimony and in public statements by three cabinet ministers, three generals and former top civil servants involved in overseeing the mission in Afghanistan that "nobody told us there was a problem, the claim that as soon as the government was informed they fixed the problems, and the claim that there were no credible allegations of the torture of Afghan detainees until late 2007."

"The idea is essentially to set the record straight," said the source, who would not comment on the record. "And to provide the evidence and transparency the public's been calling for and the committee's been calling for on this issue."

The letter, which will also provide more details on his multiple visits to Afghan jails, is intended as a continuation of or addendum to Colvin's evidence already before the committee.

The diplomat is expected to focus on his visits to Afghan jails, where he talked to prisoners who said they were tortured.

He is to counter criticism from Conservatives and others that his knowledge of torture was third-hand, at best.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada did not lose track of detainees: Cannon

AFGHANISTAN Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon is denying a report that Canada lost track of war prisoners transferred to Afghan authorities, but he admits there have been delays in getting required information.

"Canada can account for all transferred detainees currently in the Afghan prison system," he said yesterday.

He was responding to a published report that concluded an unknown number of Taliban insurgents captured by Canadian Forces were unaccounted for after being handed over to the Afghans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada not done with H1N1: Official

Flu Outbreak

390 The H1N1 virus has caused 390 deaths in Canada since first emerging in late April.

HEALTH Canadians should avoid becoming complacent about the H1N1 flu virus, which is unpredictable and could stage a big comeback in the new year, says Canada's chief public health officer.

In the final federal briefing of the year on the pandemic virus on Tuesday, Dr. David-Butler Jones said a third wave of swine flu could easily sweep across Canada in the coming months.

"As we approach the end of 2009, it's tempting to think that perhaps given the numbers, the pandemic's done. This is wishful thinking that can lead to complacency," the head of the Public Health Agency said from Ottawa. "I want to counter the complacency by emphasizing, once again, that the spread of H1N1 is not over, and it can come back.

"It's still in the world. We're not done yet."

Still, the rate of new infections seems to be dropping, based on hospitalizations, with declines being reported in all provinces and territories.

During the week ending Dec. 5, 307 people were admitted to hospital, compared to 804 the previous week; there were 83 ICU admissions versus 139 a week earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators change Tory safety bill

CONSUMERS The federal health minister is "outraged" that Liberal senators were able to get their way in changing a bill that would overhaul consumer product safety legislation in Canada.

The Conservative government has been trying to rework the consumer product safety regulatory framework for the past two years, but Liberal senators have been proposing amendments to Bill C-6, also known as the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act.

The senators voted yesterday to accept amendments that would allow companies to have a stronger defence in fighting penalties for violating the rules, make it more difficult to get a warrant to search offices outside manufacturing facilities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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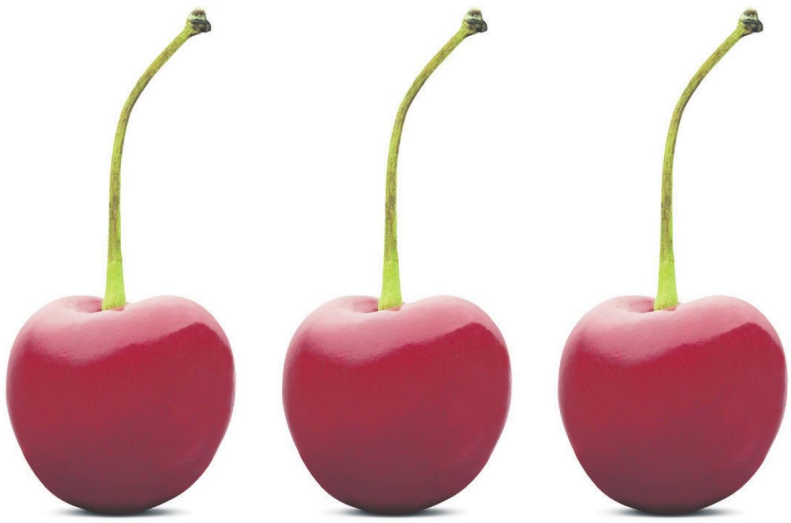
News in brief

TAX A Manitoba government report says harmonizing provincial and federal sales taxes would save the province's businesses $510 million a year but cost consumers more than $400 million. The average consumer would pay hundreds more for everything from gasoline to home heating to haircuts, says the report, which seeks to justify why Manitoba continues to resist the call of a harmonized tax. The province itself would lose out on $134 million in annual revenue, says the report released yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Mom screams as child's attacker sent to jail
The mother of a toddler injured in an assault screamed at the family of the man responsible as he was sent to prison in Medicine Hat for 42 months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh, no — Yes Men planning new pranks?

Get ready for more shenanigans, Canada.

Or maybe that's all part of the hoax.

It's difficult to know what's real and what's not when it comes to the murky, madcap world of the Yes Men.

The notorious group of pranksters had some people going on Monday with a prank on Canada over its stance on climate change.

Now those same tricksters are suggesting they'll keep up their antics — and Alberta's tarsands could be their next target.

The New York-based group told a Twitter audience yesterday they pulled their prank to teach people "about Canada's true nature and their responsibility to the developing countries" over climate debt.

But they conceded their message didn't come across as clearly as they'd hoped — so more pranks could be on the way.

One Twitter user asked, "Why stop now?" and wanted to know if the Yes Men will keep up their campaign against the tarsands.

"Who says we're stopping?" the group replied.

The Yes Men claim their latest ruse was a joint operation "between groups from developed and developing nations to highlight the relationship between the two," an issue they said should be stressed at the Copenhagen climate talks.

Their elaborate ruse made headlines around the world, and even fooled major media outlets.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice said the hoax was unhelpful, but it was at the "periphery" of the real focus in Copenhagen, which is the negotiations.

Past targets of the Yes Men have included former U.S. president George W. Bush, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the World Trade Organization and Dow Chemical.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fooled ya – group's fake news releases

- The Yes Men's prank began with a news release bearing an Environment Canada letterhead claiming Canada was dramatically revising its carbon emissions targets.
- A little more than an hour later, a second release came out, calling the first a fake.
- The group issued a third phoney news release, this time with a link to video of faux Ugandan reaction to the fake Canadian policy change.

Burnaby's charity gets movie magic

GIVING Marta McLaughlin has sponsored families in the past through the Burnaby Christmas Bureau, but it had long been on her to-do list to give her time.

The B.C.-based prop master, who works in the film industry, decided to lend a hand to the charitable program, which provides families in Burnaby with food certificates and hampers to low-income seniors.

So McLaughlin infused a little movie magic of her own in helping to transform a once-vacant space at Brentwood Town Centre into a festive toyland.

"This is a really hard time of year, I think, for a lot of people," she said.

Many charitable organizations across Canada are being hit with a double whammy this year: An increased demand for services in a tough economy and a decline in donations.

Statistics Canada says reported charitable donations were over $8.1 billion last year, but it was a 5.3 per cent decline from 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kandahar **Another case of bravery in Afghanistan**

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Master Warrant Officer George Parrott of Edmonton keeps a brave face as medic Sgt. Ian Mothus of Prince George, B.C., administers a flu shot in the Canadian command post at an Afghan National Army base in the heart of Kandahar city yesterday.

Canuck terror suspect refused bail

COURTS A Canadian citizen accused of helping plot a terrorist attack in Denmark has been refused bail by a judge in Chicago.

Tahawwur Rana, who emigrated to Canada from Pakistan in 1997, will remain behind bars.

Magistrate Judge Nan Nolan ruled that he posed a flight risk. The 48-year-old suspect has been living in Chicago for a decade.

But Nolan said she wasn't convinced Rana wasn't a significant flight risk given his strong ties to Canada.

The decision came a day after U.S. federal prosecutors alleged he knew of last year's terrorist siege on Mumbai, India, in advance.

Rana is charged with helping a friend plot an attack on a Danish newspaper and murder an editor and a cartoonist responsible for publishing cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ENERGY SALE New Brunswick's energy minister says details of the final agreement will be made public before NB Power is sold to Hydro-Québec at the end of March. Jack Keir says he's not sure if lawyers will allow the contract to be released before it is signed, but he says he'll make sure the public knows the details.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Whining about Grapes

Doctor condemns Don Cherry for 'negative influence'

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

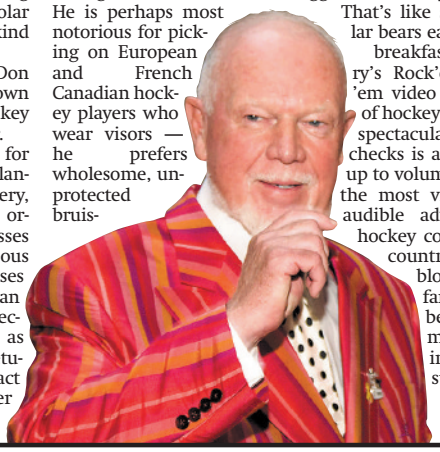
One of our great Canadian icons is threatened. I'm not talking about the polar bear, although he does kind of look like one.

I'm talking about Don Cherry, who has held down Coach's Corner on Hockey Night In Canada forever.

Grapes is famous for abusing the English language and haberdashery, not necessarily in that order. Each week, he dresses up in some outrageous clown suit and expresses himself in words that can only be described in adjectives that end in "ent," as in "truculent" and "petulant." It's a bad boy act that, apparently, never gets old.

After all, he is No. 7 on CBC's all-time list of Top 10 Canadians. He outpolled Sir John A. Macdonald, the father of our country! He even beat Wayne Gretzky, who really knew how to play hockey, not just growl about it.

Over the years, Grapes has been in trouble for his opinions, which occasionally fall over the line from outrageous to actionable. He is perhaps most notorious for picking on European and French Canadian hockey players who wear visors — he prefers wholesome, unprotected bruisers from northern Ontario or the Prairies.



Despite that, or more likely because of his various gaffes, Cherry continues to thrive. But he's back on the hot seat after neurosurgeon Dr. Charles Tator, concerned about the rise of concussions in hockey, recently condemned Cherry for being a "negative influence" because he promotes aggressive hockey.

That's like saying polar bears eat seals for breakfast. Cherry's Rock'em, Sock'em video collection of hockey fights and spectacular bodychecks is all the way up to volume 21. He's the most visible and audible advocate of hockey contact in a country of bloodthirsty fans. Must be those mind-warping plaid suits.

Don Cherry

Even weirder than Cherry's tailor ("Mr. Cherry, chartreuse and Day-Glo orange are definitely your colours!") are the legion of admirers and supporters rushing to his defence.

The producer of Hockey Night In Canada defends his "record of safety and respect in hockey." Various hockey players and pundits have pointed out his criticism of "touch icing" and his campaign to prevent blind hits from behind, both subtle variations on his general approval of hockey mayhem.

Face it, Don Cherry is the poster boy for the thousands of fans who are on their feet whenever a fight breaks out on the ice. He's our token troglodyte, and his popularity says more about us than it does about him.

Dr. Tator, you might as well try to turn polar bears into vegetarians.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Online chatter

Follow Metro on Twitter for news updates and more: @metrovancouver

Asked on Twitter: What do you think this decade will be remembered for?

EDMONTON

@tamaracarlsonpr to be honest, it was a dark decade. In with 9\11, out with a pandemic and recession ... katrina, tsunami, war on terrorism ...

CALGARY

@ebarbaric It was a decade of acceleration. In our lives, communication, business, even the stock market. I'm excited for what comes next

@jess4002 sites such as @youtube, @facebook, @wikipedia, @twitter. the ipod. the war in iraq. natural disasters like hurricane katrina. vampire craze. president @BarackObama. death of michael jackson. reality tv! holy smokes, remember when survivor premiered?

TORONTO

@adsnell Climate Change, iphones, google everything, Barack Obama and tweeting

@missmelbies 9/11, social media, obama, online music (from napster to iTunes), going "green," iraq, and janet jackson's nipple.

HALIFAX

@halifaxhometeam This decade will be remembered for the scandals and 9/11

@joverm social media, the internet, barack obama

@toddns often the most recent while still in the forefront of peoples minds so I say H1N1 for obvious reasons

@themuppetsrule 9/11 has lurked like a dark shadow over the first decade of 2000s. War, terrorism fears, security, unprecedented, really.

Word on the street: What do you think this decade will be remembered for?

Erin MacGregor
Vancouver

A: Highrise condo towers, especially here in Vancouver. And, of course, hipsters. The counter-culture has become the mainstream. Everyone's an artist.

Joe Chan
Vancouver

A: I think the first African-American (U.S.) president. We'll see how it plays out, but whether you agree or disagree with his policies, the fact is his win was a landmark event.

Julianna Auma
Vancouver

A: Scandals. Political scandals, environmental scandals. It has definitely been a decade of learning and one to learn from.

Mike Derrada
Toronto

A: I guess just the constant changes. Everyone was all about the next best thing. Things were always changing ... Whether it's technology, fashion, celebrities ... in with the new and out with the old, at a very fast pace.

Carlyn Matz
Ottawa

A: 9-11. It shaped everything that happened — the wars, the economy.

Michael Schraefel
Calgary

A: I would have to say the widespread usage and access to the Internet and communication technology. It's bizarre how much it has changed over the years.

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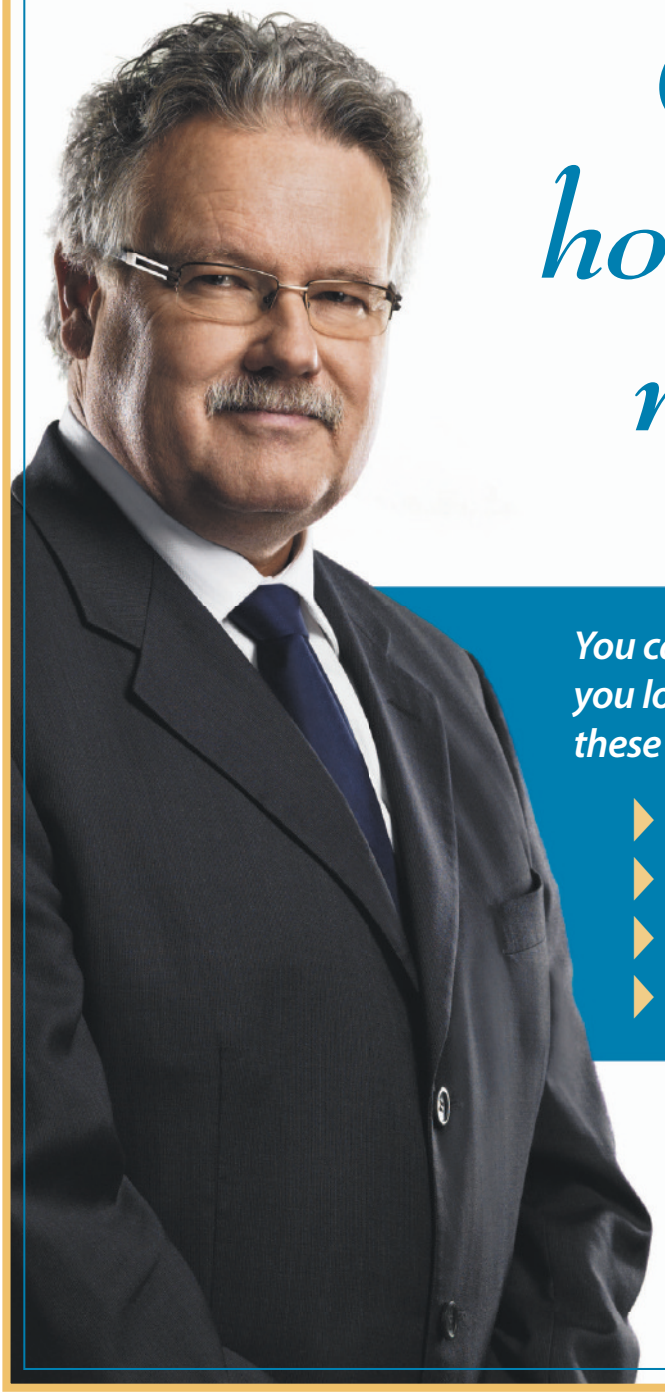

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- **Cough and sneeze into your arm**
- **Stay home if you are sick**

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

For more information about the H1N1 flu virus

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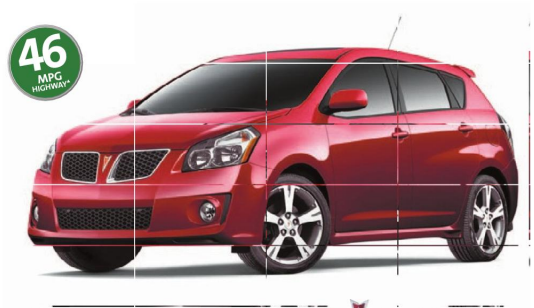

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Police officers plead not guilty in murder coverup
Three Pennsylvania police officers have pleaded not guilty in connection with an alleged coverup in the fatal beating of a Mexican immigrant. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Sexual harassment rampant: Conference

The sexual harassment of women in the streets, schools and work places of the Arab world is driving them to cover up and confine themselves to their homes, said activists at the first-ever regional conference addressing the once taboo topic.

Activists from 17 countries across the region met in Cairo for a two-day conference ending Monday and concluded that harassment was unchecked across the region because laws don't punish it, women don't report it and the authorities ignore it.

The harassment, including groping and verbal abuse, is a daily experience women in the region face and makes them wary of going into public spaces, whether it's the streets or jobs, the participants said. It happens regardless of what women are wearing.

With more and more women in schools, the workplace and politics, roles have changed, but often traditional attitudes have not.

Experts said in some places, like Egypt, harassment appears sometimes to be out of vengeance, from men blaming women for denied work opportunities.

AMR NABIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this 2008 file photo, Egyptian Basma Khaled Abdel-Fattah, 18, left front, trains in a self-defence class to protect against sexual harassment north of Cairo. Sexual harassment of women in Arab streets, schools and work places may be driving more and more women to cover up, rights activists say.

Amal Madbouli, who wears the conservative face veil or niqab, told The Associated Press that despite her dress, she is harassed and described how a man came after her in the streets of her neighbourhood.

"He hissed at me and kept asking me if I wanted to go with him to a quieter area, and to give him my phone number," said Madbouli, a mother of two. "This is a national security issue. I am a mother, and I want to be reassured when my daughters go out on the streets."

Statistics on harassment in the region have until recently been nonexistent, but a series of studies presented at the conference hinted at the widespread nature of the problem.

As many as 90 per cent of Yemeni women say they have been harassed, while in Egypt, out of a sample of 1,000, 83 per cent reported being verbally or physically abused. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesian Obama statue draws ire

JAKARTA A statue of U.S. President Barack Obama as a boy erected in a Jakarta park has been targeted in a Facebook campaign by thousands who say it should be removed.

The Indonesian-language Facebook group named "Take Down the Barack Obama Statue in Taman Menteng Park" had attracted more than 15,000 members by yesterday since the 110-centimetre statue of 10-year-old Obama dressed in shorts and a T-shirt was unveiled in the downtown park last week.

Heru Nugroho, the group's creator, said he would use the support on the popular social networking website to demand that Jakarta Gov. Fauzi Bowo remove the statue.

DITA ALANGKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The statue in Jakarta is meant to capture Obama when he lived in Indonesia as a child.

"Everybody knows that Obama is a world leader, but he is not our national hero who deserves to be awarded a statue," Nugroho said.

Many Indonesians are proud of the fact that Obama lived in Jakarta from 1967 to 1971 with his American mother, his Indonesian stepfather and his half-sister.

He went by the name "Barry," attended the local elementary school near where his statue now stands and owned a pet monkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ITALY The man who attacked Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi apologized to him for his "superficial, cowardly and uncontrolled" attack as a judge considered whether he should be transferred to a psychiatric hospital. Massimo Tartaglia, a 42-year-old with a history of psychological problems, wrote a letter to Berlusconi through his lawyers, saying he was sorry for his act, the lawyers said in a communique. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

read metro. read mor

Another deadly bombing in Pakistan
A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb in a market in central Pakistan yesterday, killing 33 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Balancing between success and failure'

Differences between U.S. and China threaten Copenhagen conference

Go Green

The success of the UN climate conference hung in the balance yesterday as China and the U.S. deadlocked over whether Beijing will allow the world to check its books and verify promised cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

Princes, presidents and premiers crowded into a vast hall for the formal opening of the largest summit yet held on climate change, but attention was on the leaders of the world's two largest polluters — U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao — who plan to arrive for the final days of talks on a framework to control heat-trapping gases.

Negotiators who have been working for 10 days floated new draft documents on lesser issues. But they left open the vexing questions of emissions targets for industrial countries, billions of dollars a year in funding for poor countries to contend with global warming, and verifying the actions of emerging powers like China to ensure they keep their promises.

"In these very hours, we are balancing between success and failure," said conference president Connie Hedegaard of Denmark.

Success is possible, she said, "but I must also warn you: We can fail — probably without anyone really wanting it so, but because we spent too much time on posturing, on repeating positions, on formalities."

The rest of the 115 leaders were expected to arrive before Friday's summit finale to sign a political outline of a global warming treaty that would set limits on carbon dioxide pollution by the United States, China, India as well as extending emissions targets for the 37 countries regulated under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

"There is no understatement that with your signatures you will write our future," Britain's Prince Charles told the conference.

Prodipto Ghosh, a member of the Indian delegation, said the negotiations were "not going good" and that fundamental differences between rich and poor nations would be "difficult to bridge" by the end of the week.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was positive about a deal but expressed frustration with the progress to date.

"I'm afraid that negotiations have been too slow," Ban said. "I think all the countries can and must do more." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An activist protests for a climate-change deal in Copenhagen yesterday. A showdown between the world's two largest polluters loomed over the UN climate talks as China accused the U.S. and other rich nations of backsliding on their commitments to fight global warming.

Big footprint

- If they fail to reach a climate deal in Copenhagen, world leaders flying in their private jets and huddling in five-star hotels will have little to show for their efforts beyond a big, fat carbon footprint. The UN estimates 40,500 tons of carbon dioxide will be pumped into the atmosphere during the 12-day conference — 90 per cent of it from flights.

m.metronews.ca
ScanLife
Scan this barcode for a daily video report from Copenhagen, or watch it at metronews.ca/world

Turning cow dung into electricity

COPENHAGEN The United States is counting on cows to help save the planet.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced an agreement with the American dairy industry yesterday to reduce the industry's greenhouse gas emissions 25 per cent by 2020, mostly by convincing farmers to capture the methane from cow manure that otherwise would be released into the atmosphere.

"This historic agreement, the first of its kind, will help us achieve the ambitious goal of drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions while benefiting farmers," Vilsack said at the UN climate talks.

"(The) use of manure of technology is a win for everyone."

Agriculture accounts for about seven per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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3490 Kingsway
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4711 Kingsway
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Ironwood Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
12571 Bridgeport Rd.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre North/South

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.

Russia to build Vietnam's nuclear plant

Russia penned a deal yesterday to build Vietnam's first nuclear power plant, and the countries' respective oil and gas giants forged a joint venture, increasing Moscow's outreach into southeast Asia, Russian news agencies reported. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
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US 0.18¢	US 19.1¢	US $1.18	4.67

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Homebuyers nervous: Poll

A survey of real estate brokers and agents says Canadian homebuyers are still nervous about the stability of the economy, but few believe home prices are likely to decline again.

The Royal LePage adviser survey found 38 per cent of agents and brokers said economic instability ranked as the No. 1 fear for home owners over the past three months.

Twenty-three per cent of brokers said home buyers fear they may not be able to sell existing homes at the price they are hoping for, while 12 per cent said buyers are hesitant because they think prices haven't hit rock bottom yet.

Another 20 per cent of agents and brokers said they are not hearing any concerns from buyers.

The survey also found an increasing number of Canadians were buying homes as investment properties with more planning to renovate after they made a purchase.

The online survey questioned 1,225 Royal LePage agents and brokers in November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rising price

- The national average price of an existing home rose to more than $337,000, the Canadian Real Estate Association reports.

Poland **Union gets heated**

CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polish shipyard workers burn tires and react during a demonstration yesterday in Warsaw, Poland. Thousands of workers from the Solidarity trade union marched in the Polish capital to demand government protection for industrial jobs. The workers rallied in front of Prime Minister Donald Tusk's office, carrying the white and red flags of the Solidarity trade union.

New motor vehicle sales increase during October

AUTO New motor vehicle sales increased 3.5 per cent to 133,559 units in October after rising in September.

October's sales were 3.2 per cent lower than October 2008.

Preliminary industry data indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold decreased seven per cent in November.

A 7.6 per cent gain in sales of North American-built passenger cars contributed to most of October's increase. The number of overseas-built passenger cars sold increased by 2.3 per cent, more than offsetting the decline in September. Sales of new trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) rose for a fourth straight month, up 1.6 per cent. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

m.metronews.ca

As concern about Dubai begins to fade, worries about the financial health of Greece and Austria provokes fresh anxiety for economists. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Business in brief

BANKRUPTCY The number of Canadian bankruptcies fell a record 27.7 per cent in October from a month earlier, the office of the superintendent of bankruptcy said yesterday, CBC News Online reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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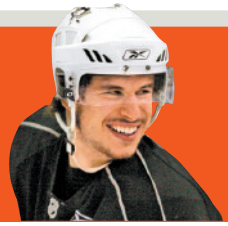
(1) See store for details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last. (2) Subject to approved credit.

Upper Deck sticking with Woods
Sports card and memorabilia maker Upper Deck Co. said yesterday it will continue its relationship with Tiger Woods. The company, and its Upper Deck Authenticated collectibles division, said the two "look forward to his eventual return to the PGA Tour." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Crosby wins award

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby is the winner of the 2009 Lou Marsh Award. The honour — decided by a panel of sports editors, reporters and broadcasters — is given annually to Canada's outstanding athlete by the Toronto Star. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

A speedy surprise

Lightning-quick Raymond enjoying breakout season

TheHockeyNews

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Canucks forward Mason Raymond is on pace to collect more than 50 points this season.

How exciting is Mason Raymond to watch? When the all-star game returns to the schedule next season I'd love to see Raymond take on the Ilya Kovalchuks and Alex Ovechkins of the league in the fastest skater competition.

It's players with focused skills like Raymond who make it easy to argue for the inclusion of all players into a league-wide skills competition.

His 12th goal of the season against the Los Angeles Kings Monday night set a new benchmark in his career, surpassing his previous career high of 11 he accumulated last season in 72 games. Not only that, but it was a goal-scorer's goal: Streaking down the open wing, taking advantage of a couple bunched up and confused defenders, crashing to the net and neatly sneaking the disc through Jonathan Quick's legs when the goalie showed poke check.

A second-rounder from 2005, Raymond is in his third NHL season (second full campaign) and clearly enjoying what will be a breakout effort. Building off previous 21- and 23-point totals, Raymond is now on pace to grab more than 50 points and is a threat to hit 30 goals.

I don't know how many fans were expecting these types of offensive results from the youngster this season, but considering the team finished 2008-09 with only one 30-goal scorer, Raymond's surge couldn't be more welcome to a team bereft of a consistent secondary threat.

"Raymond's surge couldn't be more welcome to a team bereft of a consistent secondary threat."

Players generally should be given five years before realistic career expectations can be set. Prior to the lockout, Henrik Sedin's career-high was 42 points and Brother Daniel's 54 was an anomaly at that point. Neither had fine-tuned their most attractive attributes (Daniel's highest goal total was 20 and Henrik's best assist season was 31), but in 2005-06, the fifth year for the duo, they busted out with 70-plus point seasons. Since then, Henrik hasn't been below 57 assists and Daniel has hit at least 29 goals in each of the past three seasons.

Raymond still has two more NHL seasons after this one before his fifth is in the books, so his coming-of-age this year is a little ahead of schedule.

How high can Raymond's goal and point totals go?

His six-foot, 182-pound frame is very projectable, his speed helps him gain body position around defenders, he's not afraid to drive to the net and he's even out-muscled opponents at times as well.

If he continues his 53-point pace this year and continues to improve between now and 2012 it's reasonable to ponder if he could hit 75 or even 80 points eventually.

At the very least, he's quickly morphing into the secondary scoring threat Vancouver has been searching for.

The Hockey News
thn.com

Speedskating support lands Colbert on magazine's cover

Stephen Colbert has joined the legions of athletes and swimsuit models to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated.

The host of The Colbert Report appears on the front of the magazine's latest issue wearing an Olympic speedskating uniform. The issue is devoted to sports media and hits newsstands today.

In November, devoted Colbert fans known as the Colbert Nation became the official primary sponsor of U.S. Speedskating. The team's largest annual cash sponsor, DSB Bank NV, left the team in the lurch after it declared bankruptcy in October.

With contributions from fans of the popular mock political pundit, more than $250,000 US has been raised.

Colbert announced on his TV show earlier this month that he would accept an invitation from the City of Richmond to attend the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, but only as a member of the U.S. Olympic team.

Richmond officials extended an invitation to Colbert after he labelled Canadians as "syrup suckers" and "ice-holes" while picking up on complaints that staff have limited access to the Richmond Olympic Oval, and other venues, to international athletes. In a press release on Nov. 17, the City of Richmond offered Colbert a chance to serve as "an official ombudsman to monitor the treatment of Americans during the Games."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

St. Louis 4 Calgary 3
Minnesota 2 Columbus 1
Nashville 7 Tampa Bay 4
Pittsburgh 6 Philadelphia 1
Washington 6 Colorado 1
Los Angeles 3 Edmonton 2

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Miami 115 Toronto 95
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3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	421	194	225	419
4. Cole Warren	NS, CA	422	151	267	418
4. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	421	174	244	418
6. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	418	180	233	413
6. Kelly Wrishko	AB, CA	417	171	242	413
6. Paula Almeida-Stille		421	173	240	413
6. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	421	173	240	413
10. Rick Kit	ON, CA	417	179	232	411
11. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	417	171	239	410
12. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	413	169	238	407
13. Brian B	AB, CA	417	173	233	406
13. Claude Brunelle	BC, CA	424	167	239	406
13. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	409	162	244	406

* Results exclude Quebec

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Sports in brief

NHL MEETING Gary Bettman says NHL owners probably won't have to cut any cheques to cover the losses of the Phoenix Coyotes. The commissioner reassured some members of the board of governors yesterday that they won't be on the hook for the money-losing team if a proposed sale to the Ice Edge group goes through.

SOCCER Manchester United cruised past Wolverhampton 3-0 in Alex Ferguson's 900th league match in charge of the English champions yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mariners welcome Figgins, with Lee on the way

BASEBALL Chone Figgins pulled on his new Seattle Mariners jersey and immediately started speculating about another big move — acquiring ace left-hander Cliff Lee.

"It would be nice. It wouldn't hurt, I'll tell you that," Figgins said with a grin.

And it could become a reality soon.

The Mariners welcomed the speedy Figgins yesterday as they worked on their part of a four-team trade that is expected to net them another ace to pair with Felix Hernandez at the top of the rotation.

Seattle is set to send minor league pitchers Phillippe Aumont of Gatineau, Que., its top pick in 2007, and Juan Ramirez along with Class-A outfielder Tyson Gillies of Langley, B.C., to the Phillies for Lee.

The deal is expected to be finalized today — the same day Philadelphia is expected to complete the acquisition of ace Roy Halladay from Toronto.

Details of the nine players involved in the swap of Cy Young Award winners, first reported by ESPN.com and prospectinsider.com, were confirmed by several baseball officials familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade was not yet final. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

SFU breaks ground for Surrey campus expansion

Last Friday marked the start of construction of the $10-million Podium 2 expansion of Simon Fraser University's Surrey campus. The project will see the university upgrading and renovating over 5,000 square metres of additional space. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Jobs top reasons for dropping out

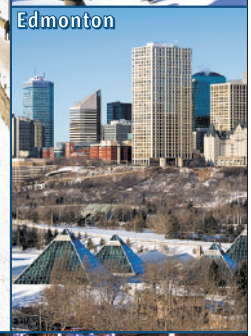
According to a new U.S. survey, 71 per cent of respondents who had dropped out of college said that work was a factor in their decision to quit, and over half said it was a major factor. About 35 per cent of those who quit school said they had tried to balance work and study, and found it too stressful. The survey's results build on a growing body of research showing that part-time students and those who have to work generally fare worse than do their full-time peers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Deck the halls — and the city

From coast to coast, Canadian cities bring the holiday season to life with decorations

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada



In case you didn't know the holiday season was upon us, the festive decorations throughout your city have probably reminded you by now.

Every year Canadian cities invest in outdoor decorations because making the streets look good is an important part of getting people into the spirit of Christmas.

In Vancouver's premiere shopping district of South Granville, 11 blocks of primarily high end home decor boutiques, art galleries and antique stores are being dressed up to the nines with new planters, banners, wreaths and other street-level decorations by the district's own Business Improvement Association (BIA).

Sharon Townsend, a spokesperson for the South Granville BIA, says the upcoming Olympics means this year they're pulling out all the stops for decoration.

"Our neighbourhood is undergoing a simply enormous transformation. We're pushing the Olympic theme and making sure the streets are festive and clean," Townsend said.

To encourage individual store owners throughout neighbourhood to contribute to its beautification, the South Granville BIA offers marketing grants to members and has created a $320,000 decoration campaign with prizes awarded to the businesses that best decorate their exterior areas. A good-looking neighbourhood is beneficial for all business owners, Townsend says.

"We encourage decor outside the box. It's a way to distinguish yourself because what people see out of their car window is what brings them back afterwards. There's a great opportunity to take pride in what you do as a business owner or as a city itself," Townsend said.

Across the country in downtown Toronto, workers have transformed the space in front of City Hall with lights, wreaths and an enormous, 62-foot high spruce tree — the city's official Christmas tree for the season.

Neil Weller, 63 and president of Weller Tree services, has provided Toronto's official tree for the past 46 years and says the responsibility is a great honour.

"We're very proud of it. When everything lights up it's a big bonus for us and it's an honour to be doing it every year," Weller said.

Kevin O'Reilly, 48, is the maintenance foreman from Toronto City Hall in charge of decorating the official tree every year as well as running preparations for Toronto's citywide Cavalcade of Lights celebration. O'Reilly and his team work hard to decorate the tree because the tree is an important symbol of holiday cheer.

"The Christmas tree is the centre of attention — it's the most important part of the decorations. Everybody works together and there's a passion for it," O'Reilly said.

The team starts around Labour Day, usually about six weeks in advance of the celebration, collecting resources together and sending crews out to beautify the city. The tree itself takes two weeks to decorate. Despite the amount of effort involved, O'Reilly says it's all worth it in the end.

"Watching people's faces light up when the lights come on makes all the work worth the effort. It gets people in the Christmas mood, happy and smiling for the season," O'Reilly said.

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$21 million for research projects at uWaterloo, WLU
The Ontario government announced Friday $21 million for projects involving over 300 researchers at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology in brief

STUDENT ORIENTED MARKETING An article in Friday's Globe and Mail takes notice of a trend in post-secondary institutions developing ad campaigns appealing to today's prospective students by taking into consideration their mindset, targeting them where they're at, and focusing on what kind of experience they would be provided on campus.

WOMEN'S STUDIES NAME CHANGE Queen's University's senate has approved a proposal to change the name of the school's Department of Women's Studies to the Department of Gender Studies, effective Jan. 1. The new name reflects an ongoing shift as traditional women's studies heads towards a multi-faceted approach that incorporates racial, gendered, and sexual diversity.

ELS AND RETENTION BIG AT LAURIER Wilfrid Laurier University has approved three projects for the $200,000 President's Innovation Seed Fund. One project will introduce ESL programming to WLU, another program will aim to increase retention rates by assisting first-year faculty of arts students who are struggling academically.

VCC OPENS ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE Last Wednesday, Vancouver Community College celebrated the opening of its new Aboriginal Gathering Place. The facility features a kitchen and lounge area, as well as resources that include Internet-enabled computers and a study area. Staff at the gathering place will provide one-stop services to help Aboriginal students complete their educational goals. Aboriginal elders will also be available to provide support to students, and education through celebrations and cultural workshops.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Why not Be a Santa for a Senior?

The greatest gift some will get this season is a smile on another's face

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

For many, this time of year is filled with holiday cheer. Friends, family and loved ones come together to celebrate the season, putting smiles on the faces they care about most.

For others, the holidays can be a reminder of just how lonely and isolated they are. It's with these people in mind that businesses and volunteers take to the streets to dedicate their time and effort to make the holiday season special for everyone.

The Be a Santa for a Senior Program, run all over the world by Home Instead Senior Care, works to spread holiday cheer to needy and isolated seniors in their communities.

Greg Bechard, of Home Instead Senior Care, says without programs like this many seniors would be forgotten at Christmas. He says it's easy to see how important it is to them when the gifts are delivered and presented in their homes.

"It's touching," he said. "It will put a lump in your throat. The real appreciation is that someone has taken the time to think about them during this busy time. It's a very emotional experience for everyone involved in the program."

Greg Bechard, not pictured here, of Home Instead Senior Care, says without programs like this many seniors would be forgotten during the holiday season.

The material gifts themselves, Bechard said, come in a distant second to the fact that for maybe just one day, the person who received it was remembered. He says most of the gift requests are simple items like gloves or deodorant.

"It's unfortunate we don't think about this all year," he said. "But it's nice to give back and share a small piece."

And share a small piece they do. Working with various retailers and non-profit community organizations across the country, regional lists are composed of seniors in need. These seniors could be in financial distress, isolated from their families or have no family at all.

With the help of various organizations, these seniors send in gift requests. The requests are, in turn, displayed on Christmas trees as ornaments — each personalized — at participating retail locations. Shoppers can then pick up an ornament and purchase the gift request. The gift is sent to a "wrapping party," where it is prepared.

Avalon Woods Health Club in Etobicoke, Ont., is just one of the retail locations displaying the ornaments. Owner Cleo Chmielinski says the program has received a great reception among members. In fact, she even hosts an annual wrapping party at the club for volunteers.

To her, a program like Be a Santa for a Senior is extremely important for the community as a whole.

"It's unfortunate that seniors are often forgotten about."
Cleo Chmielinski

"It's unfortunate that seniors are often forgotten about," she told Metro, "especially when they've done so much for our communities."

This year, Bechard estimates there's between 5,000 — 6,000 gifts ready for wrapping in Toronto alone. Additionally, everyone who submitted a gift request will receive what they asked for. If you'd like to find a way to help — whether by buying a gift or attending a wrapping party, visit the program's website at beasantatoasenior.ca. Once your there, enter your postal code for the nearest retail outlet/office.

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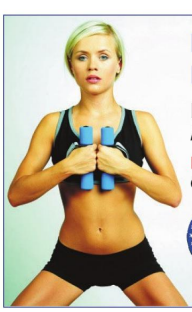
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Mercedes customers most loyal: Study

Mercedes-Benz has the most loyal customers in the industry, while Suzuki and Saab trail the list, according to a new survey by J.D. Power and Associates. The study measured the percentage of vehicle owners and lessees who replace a previously-purchased new vehicle with another from the same brand. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Women vote for Jaguar

The 2010 Jaguar XF has won the inaugural Women's World Car of the Year. The awards were selected by a panel of international female automotive journalists, including Metro Canada automotive writer Jil McIntosh.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Made in truck heaven

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

If you've ever seen desert rallies, where hand-built trucks race across sand dunes and rock crests, you'll appreciate the work that goes into making one of these ultra-tough machines. Now, you can buy a version right off the showroom floor, as Ford introduces the 2010 F-150 SVT Raptor.

It's the first truck produced by Ford's Special Vehicle Team (hence the SVT) since the 2004 Lightning. And while it's naturally going to appeal to a niche market, its design, engineering and tough-but-tender nature make it one of the best trucks I've ever driven.

The only way you can get close to this combination of power and prowess otherwise is to build it yourself.

2010 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor

Type: Pickup truck
Price: $48,299
Engine: 5.4L V8
HP: 320

Highlights

- Ultra-tough but tender
- Impressive suspension
- Comfortable on city streets

Only 550 are slated for Canada for 2010, starting at $48,299. That's a lot of money, but it's impossible to outfit a regular F-150 exactly like it, at any price. More importantly, and very unusually for this much off-road ability, it's also almost ridiculously comfortable on city streets. You won't have to pay once for a weekend toy, and again for a workday commuter.

It comes only as a Super Cab, with five-foot-five box, and right now with a 5.4-litre V8 with six-speed automatic transmission, producing 320 horsepower. A 400-horsepower 6.2-litre V8 will also be available. Naturally, 4x4 is the only configuration available, and Canadian trucks come complete with a luxury package.

The body is wider than a stock F-150, to accommodate the beefier suspension and Raptor-specific, 35-inch BF Goodrich tires. The fenders are rounded off, and a huge grille carries the brand name across its width. Inside, there are SVT-specific gauges, wheel and trim.

But the Raptor's heart is in its suspension. Racing shock manufacturer Fox Engineering created a new, rebuildable triple-bypass shock that, unlike most of Fox's products, you can only buy when the rest of the Raptor is attached. Ford says it's the first time any production truck has used anything like it. It stiffens as it compresses, becoming four times harder at the end of the stroke. The shocks let me take it over a series of desert crests at 65 km/h, as easily as tackling a speed bump at the mall, but turned pliable enough for an asphalt ride that's more comfortable than the regular F-150's performance.

Inside, this special Ford F-150 features SVT-specific gauges, wheel and trim.

So does any of this make sense at a time when hybrids are hot, and compacts are king?

Well, no matter what fuel prices do, trucks are a necessity for some and a hobby for others, and if Go RVing can run TV ads extolling the virtues of driving a house across the country, the off-road crowd should have its fix, too. They simply can't do much better than with this newest Ford, which will turn heads on the tarmac as easily as it will on the trail.

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*Base MSRP for a new 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L with 6-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission is $29,455/$21,540/$22,540/$16,665 including $1,580 freight and PDI for Tiguan and $1,365 freight and PDI for 3-door new Golf / 5-door new Golf / Golf City. License, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell for less. Limited time finance offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit. MSRP for a new 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L with 6-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission / 5-speed manual transmission (including $1,580 freight and PDI for Tiguan and $1,365 freight and PDI for 3-door new Golf / 5-door new Golf / Golf City) financed at 0% APR up to 36 months equals $818/$598/$626/$463 per month. Dealer may sell for less. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, due at signing, may be required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $29,455/$21,540/$22,540/$16,665. PPSA, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options, and other applicable taxes are extra. Offer ends January 4, 2010 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. 2010 Tiguan 2.0L / 3-door new Golf 2.5L / 5-door new Golf 2.5L / Golf City 2.0L as shown is $35,505/$25,265/$27,840/$18,701 with options and accessories. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. **Volkswagen recommends keeping the ESP on under most driving conditions. †Airbags are supplemental restraints only and will not deploy under all accident scenarios. Always use safety belts and seat children only in the rear seats, using restraint systems appropriate for their size and age. Visit vw.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Tiguan" and "Golf" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. "Das Auto & Design" and "Golf City" are trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2009 Volkswagen Canada.

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Monthly payment is $319/$203/$199 including ($1,400)/($1,325)/($1,325) freight and PDE, with $3,550/$0/$1,950 down payment, and $0/$0/$0 security deposit. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may lease for less. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $18,848/$12,173/$13,905. Lease and finance offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Offers valid between December 1st, 2009 and January 4th, 2010. ††Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG10 AE00), CVT transmission/2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 S (B5LG50 AA00), manual transmission/2010 Sentra (C4LG50 AA00), manual transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,325)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. ▲Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions - use for comparison only. ▲▲Models shown $33,298 Selling Price for a new 2010 Altima Sedan 3.5 SR (T4SG10 AA00), CVT transmission/$18,723 Selling Price for a new 2010 Versa Hatch 1.8 SL (B5RG50 AA00), manual transmission/$24,423 Selling Price for a new 2010 Sentra 2.0 SL (C4TG10 AA00), CVT transmission. Freight and PDE charges ($1,400)/($1,500)/($1,325) are included. License, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. Retailer may sell for less. [1]The Nissan Altima received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 80,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. [2]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. [3]WardsAuto.com's Lower Small segment, January 2009. 2010 Versa vs. 2009 competitors. [4]The 2010 Versa Hatch is winner of a Consumers Digest Best Buy Award. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. [5]Government star ratings are part of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). U.S. model tested. 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STK# V09050

SEDONA

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Visa card	($500)
Rebate	($6,250)

AND $144 BIWEEKLY

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KIA Soul 2010

MSRP	$17,445
Visa card	($300)
Rebate	($200)

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Visa card	($300)
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Year's Top 10? No, 11

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot

The Nissan Cube, left, and Ford Taurus are two of Michael Goetz's picks for best cars of 2009.

Yes Virginia, this is another year-end top-ten list.

Maybe you and Virginia are thinking, "enough already."

I feel your pain, but we must do this. If we don't, it will contravene that law of the universe, which states that if you don't get all those top ten lists in by the end of any year, the next one won't start properly.

So here we go with our totally subjective picks for the best vehicular moves in calendar year 2009.

Lots of good stuff at the small end of the market this year (Mazda3, Kia Soul, Honda Insight), but for me, the **Nissan Cube**, stood out like a psychedelic Maytag. Very fun. Very useful.

If we move up the food chain just a bit, you have to tip your hat to the new **VW Golf**, the recently knighted "World Car of the Year." Our favourite Golf variant is the TDI Wagon.

BMW X6 M — you are a totally outrageous and unnecessary SUV, trying to seduce good citizens away from more responsible transportation, so you can just … give me a call sometime.

GM might have blown the timing of the **Chevrolet Camaro** debut, but not the car. For boomers so inclined, the car is right on the muscle-car money.

Swinging back to the practical again, we really like the new **Subaru Legacy and Outback** models, an intelligent evolution of a great concept — efficient and low-centre-of-gravity boxier engine, all-wheel-drive, and just-right-sizing for a family of four.

Something more first classy? We're smitten with the new **Mercedes-Benz E Class sedan**. It's got space-station levels of computerization and innovation, but also manages to retain its persona as a fine, traditional European motorcar.

We have to include at least one honest-to-goodness truck, and the all-new **Dodge Ram Heavy Duty** is, as advertised, heavy duty to the max. Equipped with the Cummings diesel engine, it can pull a bungalow off its foundations, and then show off some more, by dragging it around the block a few times.

It's not really ready for prime time, but earlier this year, 500 all-electric **Mini E** units were leased out to drivers in several U.S. cities. We like how it's doing a lot of heavy lifting in the real-world testing of "plug ins" and their infrastructure issues.

To these eyes the new **Ford Taurus** is a little too big, but we like almost everything else about it, especially as it signals a return of a certain Americana esthetic and presence in the full-size car class.

We wanted to end our list with something exotic, but couldn't decide between the **Aston Martin One-77** and the **Ferrari California**. The Aston costs about $1.7 million, makes 700-plus horses, and only 77 will ever be built. Who can argue with number like that? Even so, the California is so tempting with it's front midship V8 engine, retro convertible profile, relative value (about $200 grand), and huge performance capabilities.

Yes Virginia, this top ten list goes to eleven. Get over it.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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Upon government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", Ford of Canada will provide additional incentives towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 Ford or Lincoln vehicle in the amount of $1,000 (Focus, Fusion Hybrid, Mustang, Taurus, Transit Connect, Ranger), $2,000 (Escape, Escape Hybrid, Edge, Flex, Taurus X, Explorer, Sport Trac), and $3,000 (F150, F250-550, E-Series, Expedition, MKZ, MKS, MKX, MKT, Navigator). If you qualify, the Government of Canada will provide you with $300 cash or a rebate on the purchase of a 2004 and newer vehicle as part of their Retire Your Ride program. These Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are only in effect from November 3rd to January 4th, 2010. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives will be applied after taxes. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are raincheckable. Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are not available on any vehicle receiving Commercial Fleet Incentive Program, Competitive Price Allowance or Government Price Concession, Fleet Delivery Allowance, or Daily Rental Incentives. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your old vehicle. The Government of Canada's "Retire Your Ride Program" is not available to residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut and, therefore, Ford Recycle Your Ride incentives are also not available to residents of North West Territories Yukon or Nunavut. Other provincially specific rewards may be available in association with the government's "Retire Your Ride program", for more information visit retireyourride.ca. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2009 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. 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Based on Ford branded vehicle sales from the manufacturers' month-end release December 2008. ***Most 2010 Ford vehicles, excluding 2010 Model LCF, F-650 and F-750 come with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Powertrain Warranty and full Roadside Assistance benefits together with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Safety Restraint Warranty. In addition, on all 2010 Model F-Super Duty vehicles equipped with the diesel engine, the Powertrain Warranty is extended to 5 year/160,000 km (whichever occurs first), which equals the diesel engine warranty. Some conditions and limitations apply. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673.

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Miami hotel guests moved after guest dies

About 300 guests have been relocated from a luxury Miami hotel after one former guest died and at least two others have become sick since Oct. from Legionnaires' disease. Health officials say the guests at the EPIC Hotel were moved to prevent potential contact with the waterborne bacterial disease. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

Handcrafted carousel rides into B.C.

A new carousel has opened at the Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island and it's all lit up for Christmas. The Rose Carousel, crafted by Brass Ring Entertainment of Sun Valley, Calif., is the only carousel on Vancouver Island. The 30 animal rides were handcarved from basswood and include bears, horses, ostriches and zebras. The carousel also includes two chariots. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

5 Winter fairy tale getaways

Destinations to keep you busy all over the Christmas break

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Fancy a bit of pre-Christmas sparkle to get you in the mood for the festive season?

Metro picks out five top destinations which really shine in winter.

Most destinations are at their most charming and beautiful during the winter months, so it's recommended you plan to go soon. Cozy cafes, stunning Christmas markets and snow-studded scenes are what make each individual destination so special.

Aim to visit between now and February, when you can really make the most of the festive and magical vibe that enveloped each city during the months of winter.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The days may be short in Finnish Lapland but the fun certainly isn't. From snowmobiling to tobogganing, winter games are plentiful.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cafes are many on our list

ZADAR, CROATIA
Sound of the Sea

Nestled on the Northern Dalmatian coast, Zadar feels somehow isolated from the rest of Croatia. It is rich in history; the city gates date back to the Renaissance and are guarded by a ferocious looking Venetian lion.

Best to travel between Nov-Feb

And for full-on spookiness listen to the sounds of the Sea Organ on the front.

Built by architect Nikola Bašic, the organ plays random notes as the seawater crashes into the pipes.

BRUGES, BRUSSELS
Medieval Magic

Medieval, sensual, magical and gothic … Bruges is the most extraordinary, ordinary place.

Serving as a cultural bridge between North and South Europe throughout the 14th and 15th century, daily life has become rather sleepy since it ended.

But, under the dormant surface lies an eclectic culture shaped by centuries of battle and hardships.

Meander around the streets by horse drawn carriage or stop off at Café Vlissinghe (cafevlissinghe.be) the oldest Cafe in Bruges for traditional Belgian beer.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Bruges mixes old world charm with a new world eclecticness

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Opera, cafes and Christmas

Vienna embraces the festive period like few other cities.

The joie de vivre (possibly helped along by the delicious gluhwien sold on the streets) is contagious and the café culture reflects this; Café Drechsler (cafedrechsler.at) serves delicious brioche and scrambled eggs. The city is also a musical hub, The Staatsoper Opera (Opernring 2) — once the local hangout of Mozart and Beethoven — has some spectacular shows.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Head to Le Cerniers to dive into an electricity free holiday.

FINNISH LAPLAND, FINLAND
Toboggan time

With a white Christmas guaranteed Finnish Lapland is the ultimate winter wonderland. The days may be ridiculously short, but that's the least of your worries when you're too busy having fun snowmobiling, tobogganing or husky-sledding (most are floodlit when the sun goes down… just after breakfast). Stay in the village of Saariselkä; the indigenous Sámi people are amazing hosts and have plenty of fascinating winter tales to tell to brighten up the long nights.

LES CERNIERS, SWITZERLAND
An Eskimo Experience

A holiday without running water or electricity may not sound like the most enchanting experience. But a stay at Whitepod (whitepod.com), a mountainside chalet east of Lake Geneva, may change your mind. You'll feel a bit like an Eskimo once settled in your igloo-like tent but there are plenty of sheepskin rugs, hot water bottles and wood burners to keep you warm.

Climbing mountains in the snow may leave you feeling cramped and sore, thankfully you can indulge in a Thai foot massage in the central chalet's Spa and 30 minutes away are the hot thermal springs of Lavey Les Bains.

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Your complete list of German markets

Find an English list of Germany's different Christmas markets and what they feature, compiled by Germany's national tourism office here: germany-tourism.de/ENG/culture_and_events/christmas_markets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German markets light up the holiday

The run-up to Dec. 25 in Germany is marked not just by a rush of shopping, but also by the nation's many convivial Christmas markets.

While the most renowned are the massive markets in Dresden and Nuremberg, many find the season is best celebrated at the dozens of smaller markets across the nation, like the one in Rothenburg ob der Tauber.

Here, locals and visitors alike pack the central Reiterlesmarkt square to enjoy the intimate nature of the quaint town.

Surrounded by medieval walls that date back to the 12th century, Rothenburg is also home to Kaethe Wohlfahrt, makers of ornaments and wooden carvings that are popular year-round with tourists, but that really grab attention in the Christmas season.

A couple of hours southwest of Rothenburg, visitors to Esslingen have the choice of visiting either a modern or a medieval Christmas market — which takes all the fantasy of medieval dress, customs, traditions and food and places it in a market atmosphere.

Steffi Fasora, dressed in a long, blue robe, invited children to play a game with a live mouse that is set down in the middle of a ring of wooden boxes, each of which is claimed by a child.

The rodent, dubbed a "magical mouse from India," ducks into one of the boxes, making that child the winner.

Bringing joy into Germany is what Christmas markets are all about, said Fasora, who works at medieval markets across the region.

Decembers are dark and gloomy, "and people are usually sitting in the house and being depressed," she said.

"That is why we set up a Christmas market — to bring the people out here, to have fun, to meet each other, to spend their money of course. This is what it's all about."

A couple of stalls down, bakers baked bread sticks in a wood-burning oven. A bagpiper in a long brown robe strolled around and children made their own hand-dipped candles.

Just an hour northwest of Esslingen by train, the Heidelberg market is set up in several spots along the city's 1.6 km-long pedestrian street through the heart of the old city.

At the far end, skaters glide on a rink below the ruins of the city's famous castle, built in the 1200s.

Handcrafts are among the most popular items sold at the markets, including wooden bowls, nativity figurines, ornaments and beeswax candles.

In Konstanz, on the Swiss border, the twinkling lights of the Christmas market stretch through the heart of downtown to the shores of Lake Constance, where a Christmas Boat floated with handcrafted items for sale. Regional fish were stuffed into rolls completes the experience of old world charm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Erfurt Christmas Market is the most popular in Germany.

JENS MEYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A child looks into a kiosk with traditional Thuringian handcrafts and sweets

A ferris wheel stands in the heart of Erfurt, central Germany

Getting there

- Frankfurt International Airport is in central Germany, and Germany's railway system connects to all of these cities.
- Railway fares are quite reasonable, and the main train station in each of the four cities is within walking distance of the markets.
- Rental cars are also an option, and parking options are well-marked in each city.
- For tourism information in English about areas to stay, things to do and everything you need to know about travelling in the area visit: konstanz.de

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Suri top child fashion poll

Suri Cruise has been named the most fashionable child celebrity, in a new poll by Adams Childrenswear. The three-year-old beat the Beckham brothers and Madonna's stylish daughter Lourdes for the top spot. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

New Auntie

Kim Kardashian got an early Christmas present: A nephew. "I'm an auntie!!!!" she Twittered hours after her sister, Kourtney, gave birth to a healthy baby boy in Los Angeles Monday. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Up In The Air leads Globes

Directors Reitman, Cameron among Canadian nominees

Films from Canadian directors Jason Reitman and James Cameron were among those leading the Golden Globe contenders Tuesday, with Reitman's recession-era tale Up In The Air and Cameron's sci-fi epic Avatar both racking up nods in key categories.

Up In The Air leads the pack overall with six nominations, among them best drama and acting honours for George Clooney, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick, and nods for directing and writing for the Montreal-born Reitman.

"I can't put into words how exciting it is to feel and to know that I'll be going to the Golden Globes with everyone I worked with on this film," Reitman said. "This was one of those ensembles that we really enjoyed working together. We're a tight-knit family. The idea that we're going together is just wonderful."

Avatar scored four, including best drama and director for the blockbuster filmmaker Cameron, originally from the mining town of Kapuskasing, Ont.

The directing category pits him against ex-wife Kathryn Bigelow for the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker, also up for best drama. Other directing nominees were Clint Eastwood for the South African rugby drama Invictus and Quentin Tarantino for his Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds.

Inglourious Basterds also landed a best drama nod, as did the Harlem drama Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.

The musical Nine ran second with five nominations, including best musical or comedy and acting slots for Daniel Day-Lewis, Penelope Cruz and Marion Cotillard.

Up against it for best musical or comedy are the romance (500) Days of Summer, the bachelor-party bash The Hangover and two Meryl Streep films, It's Complicated and Julie&Julia.

Up in the Air generally has been considered a comedy, but its inclusion in the drama category could give it more weight as a potential favourite for the Academy Awards, where dramatic films tend to dominate.

It's a third-time triumph for Reitman, the 32-year-old son of legendary Canadian director Ivan Reitman (Stripes, Ghostbusters).

His previous two films both scored nominations at the Golden Globes as well, with the 2007 teen pregnancy comedy Juno, earning a best comedy nod before going on to nab additional nominations at the Oscars.

Reitman's first film was the acclaimed Thank You for Smoking in 2005, which racked up two Golden Globe nominations.

Playing a frequent-flyer junkie in Up in the Air, Clooney competes for best dramatic actor with Jeff Bridges as a boozy country singer in Crazy Heart, Colin Firth as a grieving gay academic in A Single Man, Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela in Invictus and Tobey Maguire as a prisoner of war in Brothers.

Cameron's triumph comes as the visionary releases his most ambitious outing yet, a 3-D technological feat billed as the most expensive film ever made. His long-awaited return to the feature film spotlight comes 12 years after his Oscar-winning historical epic, Titanic.

In TV categories, nominations for drama series went to HBO's Big Love, Showtime's Dexter, Fox's House, AMC's Mad Men and HBO's True Blood. Musical or comedy series bids went to NBC's 30 Rock, HBO's Entourage, Fox's Glee, ABC's Modern Family and NBC's The Office.

Hollywood's second biggest film honours after the Academy Awards, the Globes are a key ceremony that sort out the prospects leading up to the Oscar nominations Feb. 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV series Mad Men, left, director Jason Reitman, above, and actress Meryl Streep, below, are among the nominees.

The Nominees

- **Picture, Drama:** Avatar, The Hurt Locker, Inglourious Basterds, Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire, Up in the Air.
- **Picture, Musical or Comedy:** (500) Days of Summer, The Hangover, It's Complicated, Julie&Julia, Nine.
- **Actor, Drama:** Jeff Bridges, Crazy Heart; George Clooney, Up in the Air; Colin Firth, A Single Man; Morgan Freeman, Invictus; Tobey Maguire, Brothers.
- **Actress, Drama:** Emily Blunt, The Young Victoria; Sandra Bullock, The Blind Side; Helen Mirren, The Last Station; Carey Mulligan, An Education; Gabourey Sidibe, Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire.
- **Director:** Kathryn Bigelow, The Hurt Locker; James Cameron, Avatar; Clint Eastwood, Invictus; Jason Reitman, Up in the Air; Quentin Tarantino, Inglourious Basterds.
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy:** Matt Damon, The Informant!; Daniel Day-Lewis, Nine; Robert Downey Jr., Sherlock Holmes; Joseph Gordon-Levitt, (500) Days of Summer; Michael Stuhlbarg, A Serious Man.
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy:** Sandra Bullock, The Proposal; Marion Cotillard, Nine; Julia Roberts, Duplicity; Meryl Streep, It's Complicated; Meryl Streep, Julie&Julia.

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for a full list of the Golden Globes nominees, or read it at metronews.ca/entertainment.

Rock hall takes a chance on ABBA, Genesis, Cliff

MUSIC 1970s Swedish pop group ABBA is dancing its way into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with Genesis, Jimmy Cliff, The Hollies and The Stooges.

The list of the next class of inductees was released yesteday by the hall, which is based in Cleveland.

ABBA and the Stooges made it in this time after being nominated previously but not making the cut.

The rock hall also has announced that an award for non-performers will go to music industry executive David Geffen, the songwriting teams of Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil and Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry, and individual songwriters Jesse Stone, Mort Shuman and Otis Blackwell.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polanski film to premiere in Berlin

PEOPLE Roman Polanski's latest movie, The Ghost Writer, will have its world premiere at the Berlin film festival in February, organizers said yesterday.

Polanski's movie was among a first batch of entries in the festival's main program that was announced yesterday — among them a premiere of Martin Scorsese's Shutter Island.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moss relocating to France
Kate Moss is moving to Paris. The supermodel has put down a deposit on a $35 million apartment in the French capital. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Hollywood's famed P.I.

A historic look at pop culture's fascination with Sherlock

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Jude Law, left, and Robert Downey Jr., star in the newest big screen version of Sherlock Holmes.

Very soon, one of the most iconic figures in popular culture will be making his latest global appearance on Christmas Day. And contrary to what you may be thinking, I'm not talking about Santa Claus.

When Sherlock Holmes hits theatres on Dec. 25, it'll mark over a Century's worth of cinema starring fiction's most famous detective. But while the fictional British bloodhound tries to upstage St. Nick on Christmas Day, his celluloid appearance is certainly not unfamiliar.

Ever since Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's prized investigator made his on-screen debut in 1900 with a one-reeler called Sherlock Holmes Baffled, Hollywood has been smitten with the gumshoe. Since, Holmes has made more than 200 film and TV appearances and been portrayed by such thespians as Basil Rathbone, Michael Caine, Charlton Heston and Canada's own Christopher Plummer.

So, what's made Holmes perhaps Hollywood's most popular private eye? Well, according to a leading member of a Calgary-based appreciation group called The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen, it's elementary, dear Watson.

"First off is the love affair that the screen has with the mystery genre," said Charles Prepolec. "When you boil it all down, people are a curious lot and enjoy seeing a secret revealed or a mystery unraveled."

Of course, the mystery yet to be revealed is whether the latest modern twist on Holmes will live up to hardcore fans' high expectations.

"I've been very skeptical about the casting of Robert Downey Jr," admitted Prepolec. "You might say I'm in the cautiously optimistic camp although some members of (our group) are perhaps somewhat less sanguine about the film. We'll see soon enough!"

Indeed we will. In the meantime, for fresh enthusiasts who want to investigate Holmes' Hollywood history, here's a list of three versions of Sherlock to get your Wats' on:

1) The Sherlock Holmes Collection – Just released to DVD, this celebrated BBC series from the 1960s starred Peter Cushing as the legendary sleuth.

2) The Hound of the Baskervilles (1939) – Basil Rathbone played Holmes in 14 films but many critics say this early classic was the portrayal that shaped the rest.

3) Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) – Ever wonder how Holmes handled puberty? This family flick by director Barry Levinson (Rain Man) explored the pipe-smoking private eye as a pimply-faced teenager.

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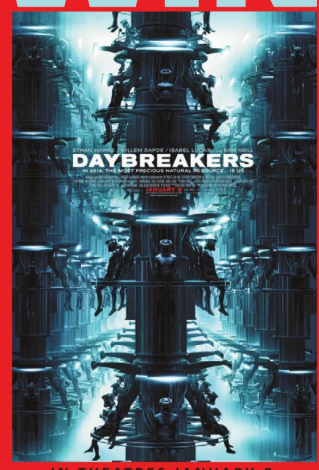

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/16/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Christmas Dreams (CC)		Holiday Festival on Ice (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	So You Think You Can Dance The winner is announced.				CSI: NY "Second Chances"		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Practice "Committed"		Third Watch "Lights Up"		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones Half-eaten body found.		Saturday Night Live Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas (N)				News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Old Christine	The Middle	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		(:01) Eastwick (N) (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Family	Family	Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds "Retaliation"		CSI: NY "Second Chances"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Sing-Off The five remaining groups perform. (N) (CC)				The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Silent Night (2002, Drama) Linda Hamilton, Matthew Harbour.				Under the Mistletoe (2006, Drama) Jaime Ray Newman.				Confidential
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Prep- Landing	The Middle	Family	Cougar Town	(:01) Eastwick (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	28 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Tales From the Darkside: The Movie ★★ (1990, Horror)				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Members' Choice				Alone
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance The winner is announced.				Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Magic Moments: The Best of 50's Pop (CC)				Change Your Brain, Change Your Life (CC)				Rock and Roll
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	CAR MD	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity results. (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	28 NW	Planet Earth "Ocean Deep"		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Planet Earth "Ocean Deep"		National
	500	500	29 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Triathlon: Vancouver Int'l		Hockey	MMA Conn	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Anaheim Ducks at Vancouver Canucks. (Subject to Blackout)					SportsCentre	World Poker Tour: Season 7		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters "Tombstone"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters "Tombstone"		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:30) Court Surfing		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Español		Ftbl Today	Gol a Gol	Gol TV News	Premier	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Naked	Rocko's Life	Hates Chris	Fresh Prince	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Arctic Mission		Indian School	Indian School	Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker (CC)				Ladies
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Due South "Witness" (CC)		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	21 MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Hottest Hip Hop Videos		MuchMusic Video Awards		My Date	Video on Trial	The Wedge
	600	564	45 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Unsellable	Intervention	Property	Unsellable	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Steven Seagal
	628	584	62 SPKE	Ways to Die	MANswers (N)	MANswers	Ways to Die	When Stunts Go Bad 3 (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	64 TLC	I'm Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Dwarf Adoption Story (CC)		I'm Pregnant	I'm Pregnant	Little Couple
	616	522	63 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		The Guard "The Beacon"		Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar "Free Fall"		Law & Order "Snatched"		Without a Trace "Closure"		White Collar "Free Fall"		Entourage
	601	562	41 SLC	In-Laws	In-Laws	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Brat Camp (Part 2 of 4) (CC)		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Frozen in Flight" (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Frozen in Flight"		Mighty Ships (CC)		Megabuilders
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Pilots NWT "40/40/40" (N)		Life After People (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Pilots NWT "40/40/40"		Outlaw Bikers
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural "The End"		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 "Pretense"		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "The 37's"	
	294	650	47 TBS	Meet, Browns	Meet, Browns	Lopez Tonight (N)		Funniest Commercials: 2009		Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	King	King	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	What	Family Guy	King	King
	603	561	52 FN	Gordon Ramsay: Cook		Unwrapped Holiday treats.		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Gordon Ramsay: Cook		Diner, Drive-In
	-	-	53 AMC	The Naked Gun ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Leslie Nielsen. (CC)				Patton ★★★★ (1970, Biography) George C. Scott, Karl Malden. (CC)				
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	RENO 911!	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	30 CEN	(5:55) Blindness ★★ (2008)		The Ruins ★★ (2008) Jonathan Tucker. (CC)			Awake ★ (2007)	Hayden Christensen. (CC)		(10:55) Noise
	581	566	101 MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	Sex News	Teen Mom (CC)		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) The Christmas Hope		Darling Buds of May (CC)		The Christmas Hope (2009) Madeleine Stowe, James Remar.				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics' corner

Cougar Town
Jules (Courteney Cox) is determined to get Grayson (Josh Hopkins) to tell her she is sexy. Following the birth of Stan, Ellie (Christa Miller) feels as if she has lost her looks and that guys just look at her differently. Bobby and Travis (Brian Van Holt, Dan Byrd) try to find common ground in "I Won't Back Down." 9:30 PM on ABC CITY

The New Adventures of Old Christine
Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) reluctantly attends her neighbor's (guest star Molly Shannon) holiday block party, where she discovers a juicy secret about her hostess in the new episode "It's Beginning to Stink a Lot Like Christmas." Michaela Watkins ("Saturday Night Live") also guest stars as Lucy, Matthew's (Hamish Linklater) girlfriend. 8 PM on VI

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit:
metronews.ca/movies

50 Cent getting his Jolies

50 Cent knows exactly who he'd like to switch places with, if only temporarily. "I'd be Brad Pitt. Go sleep with Angelina (Jolie) and come back," the rapper tells Complex magazine. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Adam Lambert is just being himself

RELAX, ALREADY Shocked over Adam Lambert's recent performance antics? Don't be, says American Idol winner Kris Allen, because there is more to come, people com reports.

"Yeah, that's who he is," Allen saya. "Obviously, he couldn't do that stuff on Idol. And so you're getting to see the real Adam now."

Lambert caused an uproar for his sexually charged performance on the American Music Awards last month, which led ABC to cancel his scheduled New Year's Eve appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live and his performance on Good Morning America. He was allowed to appear on The View.

"I thought it was Adam being Adam," Allen says of Lambert's AMA performance. "I'm going to get a shirt that just says, 'That's Adam.'"

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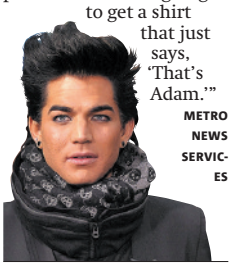

Lindsay Lohan's dad arrested

NATURE OR NURTURE? BOTH Repeat offender Michael Lohan was arrested earlier this week after violating a restraining order taken out by ex-girlfriend Erin Muller, according to TMZ. Michael Lohan was charged with criminal contempt of court by violating an order restricting him from "trying to communicate by phone."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna is moving on

STAY STRONG, CARRY ON By continuing to speak out about Chris Brown's violent Feb. 8 attack, Rihanna says she is slowly moving past the ugly incident, usmagazine.com reports.

"It's relieving," the singer, 21, says in the January issue of GQ. "Because it was built up for so long, and all these thoughts and emotions have been running through my mind for the past eight months. And now it's like I finally get to let go and move on."

Although she says doesn't like "talking about it" a lot, "every time I do, it's better; it's easier each time."

She says she finally decided to speak out about the incident because, "I wanted to move on. And I knew that was the only way I could have done it. And I wanted people to move on with me. 'Cause the last big thing they know about me is "that night". And I don't want that to be what people define me as."

Although pal Jay-Z gave her "advice and guidance," she says "nobody" helped her move past the incident.

"I didn't really want to be around anybody, for them to stare at me and stuff, and feel sorry for me. So I just — I stayed in the house a lot. Then I started to get cabin fever. I was like, I'm going crazy in here," says the singer, who just dropped her latest album, Rated R.

Looking back, Rihanna says the biggest lesson she learned is that "love is blind."

She says the physical pain was nothing compared to the emotional pain. "The bruises fade away," she says. "But the thing that stays with you is the emotional scars."

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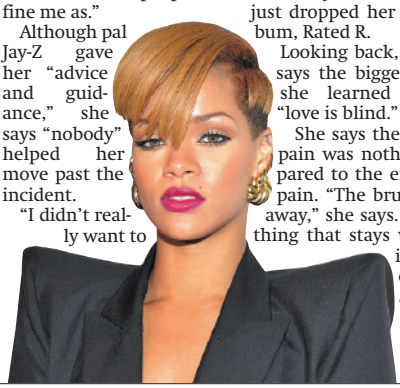

Nicole won't live in Oz

OH TENNESSEE, MY TENNESSEE Nicole Kidman refuses to move back to Sydney, Australia, from the U.S., femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress won't move back to her native country due to the constant paparazzi hounding. The Moulin Rouge star sold her home in the city in May (for around $10.5 million US).

Kidman now lives full-time in Nashville, Tenn., with her husband Keith Urban and their daughter Sunday Rose. The star is adamant she made the right decision.

She says, "It (media attention) makes certain cities impossible to live in. Like Sydney, it makes it impossible for us to live there.

"We certainly don't get that treatment in Tennessee. But it goes with the territory. It's just, we have to be careful, just to maintain some sort of semblance of a normal life for our child."

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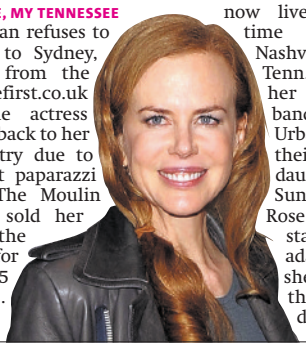
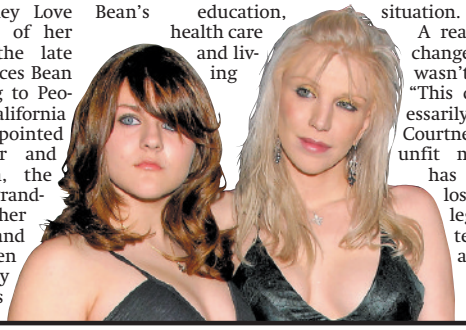


Courtney loses Frances

POOR KID Courtney Love has lost custody of her daughter with the late Kurt Cobain, Frances Bean Cobain, according to People magazine. A California court has appointed Wendy O'Connor and Kimberly Cobain, the 17-year-old girl's grandmother and aunt, her legal guardians, and the two women now have authority over the Frances Bean's education, health care and living situation.

A reason for the change in custody wasn't given. "This doesn't necessarily mean that Courtney Love is an unfit mother and has completely lost custody," a legal expert tells the magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Chris Brown flies the Twitter coup

NO MORE TWEETS Just days after using Twitter to blast Walmart and other retailers for apparently refusing to carry his new album, Chris Brown has cancelled his account with the microblogging site.

The sudden departure comes after Walmart released a statement addressing his complaints saying, "We are surprised at the comments online. All Walmart stores nationwide have carried the CD since its release, including the Wallingford store mentioned in the post. This store actually sold through its initial shipment over the weekend."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Stephen Fry can't resist a bad pun, Sandra Bernhard is politically motivated, Nick Cannon is a frequent flyer and Rainn Wilson really needs to get off Twitter.

• @stephenfry Busy in studio all morning voicing narration for a 5 part doc on Delia. Fingering a Shetland. (Feeling a little horse/hoarse geddit? Lol)

• @SandraBernhard up and I mean up. Thinking about joe leiberman, he really touches me and that makes me violent.

• @NickCannon Just landed back in ny. Just for the day. Time to grind, then back to La tonight. Let's get it!

• @rainnwilson I had a dream where I twittered about a dream I was having.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Whitney Houston likes to keep it subtle

SHE'S FAMOUS FOR IT, RIGHT? Whitney Houston says less is more, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer places great importance in not revealing too much flesh, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

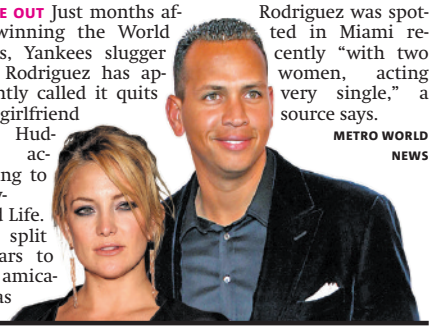
She told America's InStyle magazine, "A smile, a little glance, the way you lean back says sexy without being too open or offending anyone. Because once they've seen it all, they go, 'Man, I'm bored with that,' instead of 'Hmm, what's she going to do now?'"

METRO WORLD NEWS

Alex and Kate plus an amicable break

STRIKE OUT Just months after winning the World Series, Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez has apparently called it quits with girlfriend Kate Hudson, according to Hollywood Life. The split appears to be amicable, as Rodriguez was spotted in Miami recently "with two women, acting very single," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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Thursday Rain 60% 8° / 6°
Friday Showers 40% 8° / 4°
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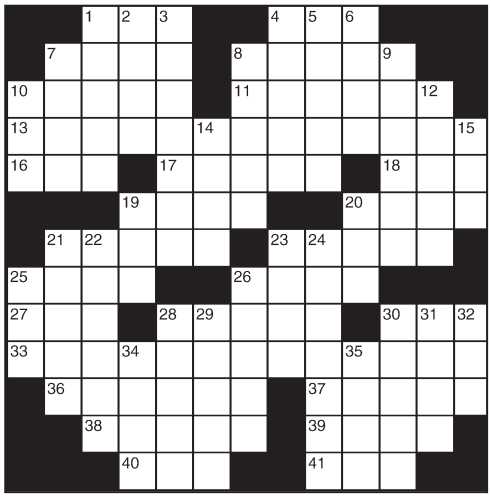
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Massage
4 Acorn producer
7 Parsley partner
8 "Sesame Street" character
10 Chamberlain nickname
11 Experts
13 Property of uranium, e.g.
16 Officeholders
17 Prepare to propose
18 "Golly!"
19 Apportion (out)
20 Writer Kingsley
21 Backbone
23 "I Know Who Killed Me" actress
25 Noisy
26 Broomcloset items
27 Dadaist painter
28 Spingarn Medal org.
30 Blackjack part
33 13-Across detector
36 Drool
37 Crystal-lined rock
38 Recording artist?
39 Title
40 Mound stat
41 Rds.

DOWN

1 Incursions
2 Wrinkly citrus
3 Give evidence of
4 Give a speech
5 Tiny bone in the ear
6 Chicken —
7 Ollie's pal
8 Host
9 Baffler
10 Lanka lead-in
12 Oktoberfest souvenir
14 Chip in a chip
15 "Certainly"
19 Central
20 Oohs' mates
21 Sensitive spots
22 Students
23 Crazy
24 Calls into question
25 Trail behind
26 PC user's shortcut
28 When pigs fly
29 Action venue
30 Fermi's particles
31 Relinquish
32 Before
34 Fence entry
35 Tidy

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4							2
		9	1					
2		8		7	4			5
					3		8	1
		4		1		7		
6	3		8					
9			7	5		8		3
					6	9		
8							5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	N	T	E		S	P	A		B	U	S	H								
L	O	U	P		A	U	G		U	N	T	O								
A	L	T	O		G	R	O	U	N	D	E	R								
S	O	U	N	D	E	R		R	I	O	T	S								
			Y	E	S		I	D	O											
P	O	E	M	S		B	O	U	N	D	E	R								
O	H	M			G	U	N			A	V	A								
P	O	U	N	D	E	R		Y	E	M	E	N								
			O	I	L		C	O	N											
A	G	O	G	O		F	O	U	N	D	E	R								
F	L	O	U	N	D	E	R		E	U	R	O								
R	A	N	T		E	T	A		A	N	N	A								
O	D	A	S		C	A	L		D	E	E	D								

4	5	3	7	6	2	1	9	8
2	9	6	1	4	8	7	5	3
7	8	1	5	3	9	6	4	2
6	2	8	3	9	5	4	7	1
3	4	5	8	7	1	2	6	9
1	7	9	6	2	4	3	8	5
8	3	4	2	5	7	9	1	6
9	1	2	4	8	6	5	3	7
5	6	7	9	1	3	8	2	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Rosemary-glazed Lamb Chops

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) currant jelly
2 tsp (10 mL) Dijon mustard
4 tsp (20 mL) chopped fresh rosemary leaves
4 lean lamb loin chops
3-4 tbsp (45-60 mL) olive oil
1 eggplant, thickly sliced
8 slices ciabatta bread

METHOD:

1. In small pot, mix currant jelly, mustard and rosemary. Preheat broiler to high.
2. Put lamb chops on grill rack, brush with oil, then season. Arrange eggplant slices on grill rack, brushing with oil. Broil 6-8 minutes, turning lamb once and eggplant slices occasionally, until golden.
3. Gently heat glaze, then brush some over lamb. Broil further 2 minutes. Turn lamb over and glaze other side. Cook 1-2 more minutes.
4. Meanwhile, brush ciabatta slices with some oil and add to grill rack. Broil ciabatta until golden on both sides.
5. Heat remaining glaze until almost boiling. Put lamb and eggplant on serving plates, then spoon hot glaze over lamb. Serve with ciabatta.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you get the urge to try something different today just go ahead and do it and don't waste a second worrying what other people might say.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't pull your punches today. Let those around you know why you are not amused at what's being going on.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Cosmic activity in your opposite sign means the ball is in your opponent's court at the moment and all you can do is wait.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You will work hard and get twice as much done as usual today, but you must also take time out to ask yourself.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Whatever you start over the next 24 hours will bring success at some stage in the near future, so make it something you can look back on with pride.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You can be a bit critical at times, and usually with good reason, but this is not the right time to go big on the negative comments.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be careful what you ask for because if someone does you a favor now you will be expected to do them a favor in the future.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
With Scorpio everything revolves around passion, so make sure what you start today is something you will want to continue.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Today's new moon in your sign guarantees that your current efforts will meet with the kind of success not even your mind could imagine.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Today's new moon in the most sensitive area of your chart won't let you get away with any kind of self-deception. Know yourself.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You usually get what you want in the long-term but today others will hand things to you without even being asked.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Believe it or not you are negotiating from a position of strength on the work front, so don't accept less than you are worth.

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This day in history

1431: Henry VI of England is crowned King of France at Notre Dame in Paris.
1907: The Great White Fleet begins its circumnavigation of the world.
1942: Holocaust: Porajmos – Heinrich Himmler orders that Roma candidates for extermination be deported to Auschwitz.
1945: Thailand joins the United Nations.
1985: Mafia: In New York City, Paul Castellano and Thilotti are shot dead on the orders of John Gotti, who assumes leadership of the Gambino family.

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